

BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #280

Your editor welcomes any and all submissions - news of upcoming events, tournament reports, and anything else that might be of interest to B.C. players. Thanks to all who contributed to this issue. To subscribe, send me an e-mail (swright2@telus.net) or sign up via the BCCF webpage (www.chess.bc.ca); if you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, just let me know.

Stephen Wright

HERE AND THERE

News from Budapest

Continuing her sojourn in the Hungarian capital, Ashley Tapp has recently played in two events. In the [Art Pub Kupa IV](#) (April 17-20), a seven-round sixty plus player Swiss, she scored 3.0 points against mostly higher-rated opposition. Also participating was former Vancouverite Michael Yip, who played "pretty bad" (his words) in reaching 50%. Then in the smaller [3rd Lila Futo](#) (May 2-4) she achieved the same result in a thirty-player mixed field.



Ashley and Michael

Last issue we reported on the Budapest Spring Open; Chessbase has since published an [article](#) on the event by Diana Mihajlova which includes the above photo. It should also be remembered that Michael is a prolific blogger, most notably in this context through the [Budapest Chess News](#) blog.

Tapp, Ashley - Granicz, Janos [A47] Art Pub Kupa 4th Budapest (3.16), 18.04.2014

1.d4 e6 2.Bf4 b6 3.e3 Bb7 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.h3 Nb4 7.Be2 Ne4 8.c3 Nd5 9.Bh2 Bd6 10.Bxd6 Nxd6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Nbd2 f5 13.Ne5 Nf6 14.Qa4 a6 15.Bf3 b5 16.Qc2 Bxf3 17.Ndxf3 Qe8 18.a4 Nde4 19.c4 d6 20.Nd3 Qd7 21.c5 Nd5 22.Rfc1 Rfc8 23.c6 Qe8 24.axb5 axb5 25.Rxa8 Rxa8 26.Qb3 Ra5 27.Nb4 Nxb4 28.Qxb4 Qa8 29.Qb3 Kf7 30.Rc2 Ra1+ 31.Kh2 Qa5 32.Qd3 Qa2 33.Re2 Qa6 34.Rc2 h6 35.g4 Qa2 36.gxf5 exf5 37.Qxb5 Qb1 38.Qxf5+ Nf6 39.d5 Qh1+ 40.Kg3 g6 41.Qe6+ Kg7 42.Qe7+ Kg8 43.Qxf6 Rg1+ 44.Nxg1 Qxg1+ 45.Kh4 g5+ 46.Kh5 Qd1+ 47.Kxh6 1-0

I Festival Nazari Hotel Corona A (April 15-20)



Recently the Nazari chess club of Granada, Spain held an inaugural chess festival in that city's Hotel Corona. The three separate events were two ten-player round robins in which GM and IM norms were respectively available, and a Scheveningen tournament pitting locals against internationals. One of the participants in the GM event was this province's Leon Piasetski; he tied for last in the event with 3.5/9 but still gained rating points. Spanish IM Marcos Camacho Collados was the overall winner with 6.5, while among those tied for second was IM Lawrence Trent, currently better known as a commentator on various web broadcasts.

[Standings](#) [Tournament website](#)

Piasetski, Leon - Pilgaard, Kim [D37] I Hotel Nazari GM Granada ESP (6.5), 18.04.2014

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 0-0 7.Rc1 b6 8.e3 Bb7 9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.cxd5 exd5 11.Be2 c5 12.0-0 Nd7 13.dxc5 Nxc5 14.Nd4 Ne4 15.Qa4 a6 16.Rfd1 b5 17.Qb3 Nc5 18.Qb4 Ne6 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Bg4 Re8 21.Ne4 Be5 22.Nc5 Bc8 23.f4 Bd6 24.Qd4 Kh8 25.Bf3 Rb8 26.b4 a5 27.a3 axb4 28.axb4 Bd7 29.g3 Qe7 30.e4 Bxc5 31.Qxc5 Qf7 32.Qd6 Rbc8 33.exd5 Rxc1 34.Rxc1 exd5 35.Rc7 Re7 36.Bg4 Bxg4 37.Rxe7 Qf5 38.Qe5 Qb1+ 39.Qe1 Qc2 40.Qa1 Qg6 41.f5 Bxf5 42.Qa8+ Kh7 43.Qxd5 Qb6+ 44.Kg2 Qf6 45.Qe5 Qc6+ 46.Kf2 Qc2+ 47.Qe2 Qc6 48.g4 Bxg4 49.Qe4+ Qxe4 50.Rxe4 Bf5 51.Re5 Bd3 52.Ke3 Bc4 53.Rc5 Bf1 54.Rc1 Bh3 55.Kd4 Bg4 56.Re1 Bf5 57.Re5 Bd7 58.Kc5 1-0

Piasetski, Leon - Cuenca Jimenez, Jose [E90] I Hotel Nazari GM Granada ESP (8.4), 19.04.2014

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.d4 0-0 6.h3 e5 7.d5 Nh5 8.Nh2 Qe8 9.Be2 Nf4 10.Bf3 f5 11.g3 Nxh3 12.Bg2 f4 13.Nf3 Nxf2 14.Kxf2 Nd7 15.Ng5 Nf6 16.Ne6 Bxe6 17.dxe6 c6 18.Bh3 Qe7 19.gxf4 exf4 20.Qf3 Nh5 21.Bd2 Qh4+ 22.Ke2 Ng3+ 23.Kd3 Nxh1 24.Rxh1 Qf6 25.Kc2 Rae8 26.b3 Rxe6 27.Bxe6+ Qxe6 28.Nd1 b5 29.Nf2 bxc4 30.Qh3 cxb3+ 31.axb3 Qxh3 32.Nxh3 f3 33.Kd3 Rb8 34.b4 c5 35.bxc5 dxc5 36.Rf1 Rb2 37.Bc1 Rb3+ 38.Kc2 Rc3+ 39.Kd2 Rc4 40.Kd3 Rc3+ 41.Kd2 Bd4 42.Bb2 Re3 43.Bxd4 cxd4 44.Ng5 h6 45.Nxf3 Rxe4 46.Ra1 Re7 47.Nxd4 Kg7 48.Ra6 h5 49.Nf3 Rb7 50.Ne5 Rb6 51.Rxa7+ Kh6 52.Nf7+ ½-½

Paul Keres Memorial and BCCF Annual General Meeting

As you may be aware, the annual [Keres Memorial](#) Tournament is coming up next weekend (there is still time to enter if you have not already done so!). The BCCF Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday May 18 between the third and fourth rounds of the Keres, beginning around 3:00 pm. We encourage you to come out and attend the AGM: the executive for the coming year will be elected, and there will also be opportunity to voice concerns, comments, and ideas about how organized chess is run in B.C. The BCCF is your federation - it is only as strong as those involved in it, your help is needed! There are several proposed amendments to the BCCF constitution which may be found on the BCCF [website](#).

INTERMAT (May 3) by Gyan Awatramani



The 2014 B.C. vs Washington Scholastic International Match (23rd) was held at the Vancouver Chess School. A match that has been finely poised over the years ended in a landslide victory in Team B.C.'s favour, with the final score of 36-16, the widest margin on record. To be selected to play in this prestigious international match is an achievement in itself for our juniors, and will stand them in good stead. Stylish Umbro T-shirts embossed with the Canadian and U.S. flags were awarded to all team players.

Our K-3's, despite being rated below their US counterparts, punched above their weight and added valuable points to the overall scoreline. Toro Hannah-Lee (Kindergarten) won both his games, and will be a force to be reckoned with in the coming years. The higher grades stayed true to form, and dazzled with some bravura performances. It was a first for the Nyamdorj siblings (Davaa-Ochir and Uranchimeg), from Ulan Bator, to represent Team B.C. Other notable perfect scores (2.0/2): Neil Doknjas, Kevin Low, Leo Qu, Luke Pulfer, Joshua Doknjas, Janak Awatramani, Alex Sabaratnam, Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj, and Tanraj Sohal. [Other B.C. players with a plus score were Max Gedajlovic, Alex Lin, Uranchimeg Nyamdorj, and Ryan Lo, while in reply for Washington Matthew Hwang and Jason Yu had perfect scores and James Soetedjo had a plus score.] It cannot be emphasized enough, that finally it was truly a team effort with every 1/2 point adding to the final score. Incidentally this will be veteran Tanraj Sohal's last year representing B.C. at the intermat, and he couldn't have asked for a better finish!



An endgame that was particularly interesting was that between Max Gedajlovic (2071) and Bryce Tiglon (2235). White won a pawn in the early middle game, but Black defended excellently and managed to achieve this drawn position (diagram). White offered a draw here but Black surprisingly declined and played 58...b5?? 59. b4!! White's pawn will crash through and queen. 59...bxc4 60.bxc5 c3 61.Ne4 Resigns.

There was much post match fanfare, with befitting photo sessions, and the spraying of champagne at the magic moment (courtesy Robert Pulfer) when the coveted trophy was handed over. As predicted it will be here to stay. Celebrations continued at Lynette Buchman's delightful neighbourhood restaurant Enigma, with a live jazz band dedicating a smooth tune by Stevie Wonder "You are the sunshine of my life" to commemorate this historic win.

Another paradigm shift has been in the three training sessions which were all well attended. Special thanks to Robert Pulfer, Vivien Lai, Butch Villavieja, Pavel Trochtchanovitch, Alfred Pechisker, James Chan, Joe Roback, Omar Jessa, Jason Kenney, Richard Ingram, Maxim Doroshenko and GM Melikset Khachiyan. Our sincere thanks to Elliott Neff and his team for their collaborative efforts in making such an event possible. Many thanks to the diligent work, goodwill and support of all members of the Chess community of B.C. who have in some way or form contributed to this emphatic victory, for Team B.C.



To the victors go the spoils ...

[Individual results](#) [Many more photos](#) [Previous matches](#)

[Traditionally B.C. has scored well in the upper grades, Washington in the lower, but this paradigm has been breaking down in recent years and certainly wasn't applicable this time round. B.C.'s grades 7-12 scored 8.0/12 in the first round, a healthy plus score, but B.C.'s younger team members demolished their Washington opponents to the tune of 12.0/14, leaving B.C. with an almost insurmountable lead at the half. (It should be noted this score was achieved with the home team playing white on all boards, an idiosyncratic pairing system which really should be changed in future matches.) In round two with B.C. playing black, our K-7 members 'only' managed 8.0/14, but this was more than enough to seal Washington's fate. Coupled with another 8.0/12 from the upper grades, B.C. won by the score of 36-16, a far cry from the first and only drawn match just two years ago. Washington still leads the overall series by twelve victories to ten with one draw.]

APRIL ACTIVE (April 26) by Joe Roback (TD)

This Saturday's April Active ran quite smoothly due to having half the turnout as last time, and the internet miraculously working on my desktop. Two fans were placed strategically in the tournament in due to the warmer weather.

FM Jason Cao (U10 World Champion and 2013 Active Grand Prix Winner) commuted from Victoria for the event. From the pre-registered list posted online, the young FM seemed to have a pretty straightforward tournament ahead of him. However, there were several masters who arrived at the last minute, including NM Alfred Pechsker, NM Roman Jiganchine, James Chan, and the prodigious Janak Awatramani.

Jason Cao placed clear first with 5.5/6, securing him a seat at the Vancouver Active Grand Prix coming up in December. He agreed to a brief draw in round six, likely due to his decisive placement in the tournament, looming ferry deadlines, and the relative insignificance of the Vancouver Active ratings. Local VCS instructor NM Alfred Pechsker placed clear second with 4.5/6, Jofrel Landingin was awarded the \$60 U2000 prize, and Victor Zheng and ferry-goer Matthew Geng split the two \$40 prizes for 1st/2nd U1500.



Jason with Joe Roback



Position 1: White to play

This position was reached by two veteran players in one of the middle rounds. Without much time to spare, White opted for 1.b3, temporarily guarding the pawn and attacking the knight on a4 with tempo. As a result, Black played 1...Nc5, forking White's pawns on b3 and e4.

However, the forcing tactic 1.Nxf6 helps to convert White's positional edge into a material advantage and a decisive win. If 1...Qxf6 then 2.Bxe5 quickly wins for White. For example: 1.Nxf6 Qxf6 2.Bxe5 Qxe5 3.Qxf8#



Position 2: White to Play

This was the critical position between two masters on the top boards. Black has just played Nxd3 trading off White's light-squared bishop. A vast majority of players would simple recapture with 1.Qxd3 allowing 1...Rxe7 and Black would gradually solidify into equality. However, White found the more powerful in-between move 1.Nf6+ which forces Black to decisively weaken his kingside. For example, 1.Nf6+ Kh8 2.Qxd3 with tempo (threatening Qh7 mate) 2...gxf6 3. Bxf6+ and Black cannot defend the kingside. Black resigned two moves later.

2014 GRAND PACIFIC OPEN by Roger Patterson

The organizers, Brian Raymer, Paul Leblanc, and Roger Patterson were pleased that we managed to break a new record for attendance: 123 players from across Canada, the US, as well as Mexico and Vietnam. The GPO has only failed to break record attendance twice and it is encouraging to think we can still grow! Not many weekend tournaments get attendees from such a wide geographic area - six provinces coast to coast, three US states, also coast to coast, and four countries.

Such an event does take a lot of people to be successful and we would like to thank all those who contributed, starting with our head TD Mark S. Dutton IA, IO, side event TDs Jill Ding and Elliot Raymer, and all those who volunteered for tournament set up, tear down, and other duties great and small. A number of people made financial contributions - you can find a list on our Sponsors page along with our corporate sponsors: the Hotel Grand Pacific, Goddess Chess, the Flying Otter, Sam's Deli & Bistro, and The Soda Shop. We again were lucky to have the services of Blue Giraffe Photography who documented the event with some very nice photography. You can check those photos out at his website.

The Grand Pacific Open is not just one event of course. Combined with the six round main event are the Victoria Youth Chess Championship, a four round Active event, Midnight Blitz, and Bughouse to round off the weekend. Apart from a modest fee for the Youth Championship, the side events are free to all (including people not in the main event). Results for these side events are on the website (link at end).

The Premier Section of the main event drew sixty-four players, a very nice number for a chess tournament :-), particularly for a six-round Swiss. The early rounds saw a number of the leading players, including Yoos, Sohal, and Rohonyan nicked for a half point in quasi upsets. By round four only three perfect scores remained, Jonathan Berry, Peter Lessler, and the local Victoria favourite, Jason Cao. Cao and Berry drew while Lessler took out Yoos. In round five Cao drew Lessler and ultimately after six rounds, Berry and Lessler both had 5.5/6, with Lesser taking the trophy on tiebreak (cumulative score) by virtue of having the fortune of drawing Cao one round later than Berry. Jason Cao wound up in clear third with 5 points. It was a pleasure to see Jonathan Berry back in action. He has been retired from tournament play for the last five years (last event was the 2009 GPO) and the break apparently hasn't hurt his play.



Our 2014 Champions: Jonathan Berry (second on tiebreak) and Peter Lessler, along with organizer Roger Patterson. In the background are Paul Leblanc (organizer) & Mark Dutton (TD).

The U1800 group was won convincingly by Mathew Geng. Local players know that his pre-tournament rating of 1258 is way too low (his club rating is 1444) but still, this was a breakout performance for him. Second-place finisher Kyle Zheng actually took the U1500 prize and was also low rated at 1399. The biggest upset also came from this section by Aaron Ananddji rated 730 with an upset difference of 651 points. The higher rated players had a hard time in this section.

A special prize was announced at the tournament - \$100 for the 'most beautiful game' split equally between the winner and loser courtesy of WGM Katerina Rohonyan. Submitted games from rounds one through five were judged by Katerina (with some interested spectators) and the winner was Daniel Sutherland:

Shao, Nathan (1849) - Sutherland, Daniel (1645) [B01] Grand Pacific op 8th Victoria (5.22), 20.04.2014

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.dxe6 Bxe6 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Be2 Bc5 7.0-0 0-0 8.a3 Nd4 9.Nxd4 Qxd4 10.d3 Rfe8 11.Qc2 Bg4 12.Nc3 Rad8



White tries to solve his issues by giving up two rooks for the black queen but there is a counter shot.... The trapper trapped. 13.b4? Bxe2 14.Nxe2 Qxa1 15.Bb2 Bxf2+! 16.Kxf2 Ng4+ 17.Kg3 Qxf1 18.Nf4 Nh6 19.Qd2 c6 20.h3 Qe1+ 0-1

This [report](#), along with a complete list of prize winners, reports on side events, and links to more photos and a PGN file.

Ingram, Richard - Day, Lawrence [B06] Grand Pacific op 8th Victoria (1.8), 18.04.2014

1.e4 g6 2.d4 d6 3.Nc3 a6 4.h3 b5 5.Nf3 Bb7 6.a3 Nd7 7.Bf4 Bg7 8.Qd2 e5 9.Bg5 f6 10.Be3 Ne7 11.Rd1 0-0 12.dxe5 Nxe5 13.Be2 Nxf3+ 14.Bxf3 f5 15.Bd4 Bxd4 16.Qxd4 fxe4 17.Bxe4 Nf5 18.Bd5+ Bxd5 19.Qxd5+ Kg7 20.0-0 Rb8 21.Ne4 Re8 22.Rfe1 Qe7 23.Qd2 Qe5 24.Nxd6 Qxd6 25.Qc3+ Nd4 26.Rxe8 Rxe8 27.Rxd4 Re1+ 28.Qxe1 Qxd4 29.Qe7+ Kh6 30.Qe3+ Qxe3 31.fxe3 Kg5 32.Kf2 h5 33.g3 Kf5 34.Kf3 g5 35.e4+ Ke5 36.h4 g4+ 37.Ke3 c5 38.b3 a5 39.a4 bxa4 40.bxa4 Ke6 41.Kf4 Kf6 42.e5+ Ke6 43.c4 1-0

Berry, Jonathan - Moore, Harry [A07] Grand Pacific op 8th Victoria (3.2), 19.04.2014

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 c6 4.0-0 Bf5 5.d3 e6 6.b3 Be7 7.Bb2 h6 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.e3 a5 10.a3 Bh7 11.Qe2 Qb6 12.e4 Na6 13.Ne5 Nc5 14.Bd4 Qc7 15.f4 Ncd7 16.g4 dxe4 17.Nxe4 Nxe4 18.dxe4 c5 19.Nxd7 Qxd7 20.Bc3 a4 21.f5 exf5 22.gxf5 axb3 23.cxb3 Bg5 24.a4 c4 25.Rfd1 Qe7 26.Qxc4 Rac8 27.Qb4 Be3+ 28.Kh1 Bc5 29.Qb5 Bd6 30.e5 Rxc3 31.exd6 Qg5 32.d7 Rc2 33.Bxb7 Bxf5 34.d8Q Rxh2+ 35.Kxh2 Qf4+ 36.Kg2 Qg4+ 37.Kf2 Rxd8 38.Rxd8+ Kh7 39.Qc4 1-0

Yoos, Jack - Lessler, Peter [C33] Grand Pacific op 8th Victoria (4.2), 20.04.2014

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.exd5 exf4 4.Bc4 Qh4+ 5.Kf1 Bd6 6.Nf3 Qh6 7.Nc3 Ne7 8.Ne4 0-0 9.d4 Bf5 10.Nf2 Nd7 11.g4 Bxg4 12.Nxg4 Qh3+ 13.Kf2 Qxg4 14.Rg1 Qh3 15.Bf1 Qh6 16.c4 Nf5 17.Qd3 Nh4 18.Ng5 Rfe8 19.Qh3 Nc5 20.b4 Ne4+ 21.Nxe4 Rxe4 22.Bd3 Rxd4 23.Bd2 Ng6 0-1

Cao, Jason - Nguyen, Kim [B90] Grand Pacific op 8th Victoria (6.3), 21.04.2014

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.f3 Be6 9.Qd2 0-0
10.0-0-0 a5 11.a4 Nc6 12.g4 Nb4 13.Kb1 Rc8 14.g5 Nh5 15.Rg1 d5 16.exd5 Bf5 17.Rc1 b6
18.Bb5 Qd6 19.Rgd1 Rfd8 20.Ne4 Qxd5 21.Bxb6 Bxe4 22.fxe4 Qxd2 23.Nxd2 Rd6 24.Nc4 Rg6
25.Bxa5 Nc6 26.Bd2 f6 27.Nb6 1-0

REMEMBERING GYULA SAX by Dan Scoones

[On January 25 of this year the Hungarian grandmaster Gyula Sax died of a heart attack at the age of sixty-two. Twice Hungarian champion and twice a Candidate, Sax was also a member of the 1978 Hungarian team in Buenos Aires which managed to break the previous Soviet monopoly at olympiads. Despite this, the response to his passing was surprisingly muted in the general chess press; to redress the balance somewhat, Dan Scoones here describes the grandmaster's visit to B.C. in 1978.]



When Northern BC Chess Association President Zvonko Sarac learned that Gyula Sax had entered the lists for the 1978 Canadian Open in Hamilton, he began immediate efforts to bring the two-time Hungarian Champion to British Columbia. These efforts eventually paid off and in early summer the announcement came that after the conclusion of the Canadian Open, Sax would travel to the Bulkley Valley town of Smithers for a special tournament: the Northern BC Open. This event was set for the BC Day long weekend in August, and would consist of five rounds in one section. By my recollection the main organizers were Von and Bea Sarac, Frank Hegedus, and Ignac Vucko. Hegedus was Hungarian, so if there was any language barrier, he would be able to step in. I will run ahead and say that Mr. Sax was found to be perfectly fluent in English.

Several months before the tournament I had left my hometown of Victoria and was living and working in the northern city of Terrace. Despite its small size and relative isolation, Terrace had its own chess club with a core of dedicated members who met every week at the local rec centre. There was also an active club down the road in Kitimat that was sponsored by Alcan. Now,

anyone who has lived in one of the many towns along Highway 16 – the Yellowhead Highway – knows the unwritten Code of the North: we will travel long distances to pursue our hobbies. If there was a weekend chess tournament anywhere between Prince Rupert on the coast and Prince George 450 miles inland, the chessplayers of Prince Rupert, Terrace, Kitimat, Smithers, Telkwa, Burns Lake, Vanderhoof, and Prince George would all find a way to be there. In the end my Terrace colleagues Robert Brown, Kim Geddes, George Braun and I made the trek to Smithers, and we were joined by my good friends Mike Bateman of Kitimat and Jeff Reeve of Victoria.

In that summer of 1978, world chess news was being dominated by the marathon match in Baguio City between the stateless defector Viktor Korchnoi and the Soviet world champion Anatoly Karpov. But the cognoscenti were also aware the annual invitational tournament on the island of Las Palmas in the Spanish Canaries had been won by a certain grandmaster from Hungary: Gyula Sax. He had come out ahead of such notable players as Vladimir Tukmakov, Fridrik Olafsson, Anthony Miles, Michael Stean, and Bent Larsen. Given this result it was clear that some serious preparation would be needed if we were going to have any chance of staying on the board against him. This notion was reinforced when he lived up to expectations and took top spot in the Canadian Open in Hamilton.

With several weeks still to go before the tournament, I sat down in my study with some recent copies of *Chess Informant* and began to study Gyula Sax's games. What a shock – the guy was a total aggressor! His favourite opening for both sides was the Sicilian Defence. It didn't take long to see that he liked to crank up the tension in the position and let his opponent's struggle to stay on the board. When the opportunity arose, he would finish them off with some hard-hitting tactics. The Northern BC Open festivities got underway on the Friday evening before actual play began. At this time we were introduced to the Hungarian grandmaster and invited to take part in a simultaneous display. I don't usually play in simultaneous displays – unless I'm giving them – but on this occasion I thought it advisable to take a board because if things went wrong in the tournament I might not get a pairing with Sax. Playing Black, I decided to employ my main defence at that time: the Sicilian Sveshnikov. Sax gave it an unusual treatment as White, but I was ready and followed a defensive variation that was the choice of Sveshnikov himself. Almost immediately I was hit with a novelty that I had never seen before, fell into a bad position, and succumbed to a direct attack. After the game I said to Sax, "I'm not sure what I did wrong – I tried to play it like Sveshnikov himself." He replied, "I must tell you that I recently beat Sveshnikov in this line, but the game hasn't been published yet. He tried to defend the same way you did." That certainly gave me a taste of what chess was like at the highest levels!

In the third round, Sax was paired with my friend and colleague Jeff Reeve of Victoria. Jeff defended with his favourite Dragon Sicilian but was unceremoniously swept off the board by a kingside attack. After a lengthy post-mortem with Sax, Jeff said to me, "That guy calculates more variations in a single game than I do in an entire year!" At another point in the tournament I was showing someone how to play the French Advance for Black. Sax came along, looked at the position for a minute, and then uncorked a winning shot for White. I asked him if he had just figured that out and he said, "No, it's analysis. I'm saving it for Tigran Petrosian." Sax later lost to Petrosian on the White side of the French Tarrasch, and I've always wondered why he didn't try to catch the former World Champion in the trick that he showed us. Unfortunately, I can't remember any of the analysis.

I won't bore the reader with a detailed account of my games from this tournament, except to say that in the first round I played an involuntary Swiss Gambit, losing to Duane Polich in a winning

knight and pawn ending by blundering into a one-move mate. Our game was the last to finish, and our concentration was being disturbed by the annual meeting of the Northern BC Chess Association, which was going on in the same (small) tournament hall because no other space was available. I pulled myself together after this and won three games in a row, including a must-win against expert Rick Ziegler. That result gave me a last-round pairing against Sax, who had just defeated Chris Evans in a very difficult game.

In this game I again had Black, and decided to fall back on my only reliable defence to 1.e4: the Sicilian Sveshnikov. Sax chose a very sharp line involving the move c2-c4 and the position soon became very complicated. Despite the complications, I wasn't very optimistic about my chances because I had been forced to sacrifice a pawn and it wasn't clear whether the compensation was adequate. However, I did have active pieces and you cannot ask for more than that. Sax made a move and suddenly – to my great astonishment – offered me a draw. I thought for a little while and decided to accept. This would guarantee me third prize and as I have already mentioned I believed (correctly) that my position was somewhat worse. In an interview after the tournament Sax expressed the view that I was already at the Hungarian master level, which was very inspiring to read because that summer I was working hard to raise my playing strength. After the Northern BC Open, I moved up to number thirty on the national ranking list, my highest-ever placement. Von Sarac told me after the tournament that Gyula Sax had enjoyed his visit to British Columbia and had found the fresh air and healthy living conditions to be very good for his chess. In the subsequent years I continued to follow Sax's tournament results and games. I hope this short article will serve as a small memorial to a strong grandmaster who inspired me to improve my understanding of chess.

Sax, Gyula - Scoones, Dan [B33] Northern BC op Smithers (5), 07.08.1978

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Nxe7 Nxe7 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.c4 Bb7 13.cxb5 Bxe4 14.bxa6 d5 15.f3 Bf5 16.Bb5+ Kf8 17.0–0 Nc6 18.Kh1 Nd4 19.f4 Rg8 20.Qd2 Be4 21.Rf2 Ne6 22.fxe5 fxe5 23.Bd3 Bxd3 24.Qxd3 ½–½

UPCOMING EVENTS

UBC Thursday Night Blitz (note the change of format)

Thursdays, 6:30 pm, Henry Angus Building, University of British Columbia

Entry fee \$10+, depending on number of players and whether rated or not

Contact Aaron Cosenza, xramis1@yahoo.ca, or see <https://www.facebook.com/UBCChess>

May Active

May 10, Vancouver Chess School

[Details](#)

Keres Memorial

May 17-19, Richmond

[Details](#)

East Vancouver May Active

May 25, Vancouver Bridge Centre

[Details](#)

West End Blitz

June 1, Exile Café, Vancouver

[Details](#)

June Active

June 8, Vancouver Chess School

[Details](#)

East Vancouver June Active

June 15, Vancouver Bridge Centre

[Details](#)

B.C. Senior Championship

June 20-22, Surrey

[Details](#)

West End Blitz

June 29, Exile Café, Vancouver

[Details](#)

July Active

July 6, Vancouver Chess School

[Details](#)

West End Blitz

July 20, Exile Café, Vancouver

[Details](#)

August Active

August 17, Vancouver Chess School

[Details](#)